



My name is Lucy Moore, and I am a Senior Staff Nurse at The Royal Marsden Hospital Trust.

How did you first get involved with UKONS and what drew you to it?

I first heard about UKONS through my Mum. She is a Uro-Oncology CNS with over 40 years of oncology experience and encouraged me to become a UKONS member when I was first newly qualified in 2021 and just starting my career at the Marsden. I saw their advertisement for abstracts for their upcoming UKONS conference and decided to give it a go – submitting my abstract and then consequently creating a poster for display. I was then picked to present my poster as an oral presentation at the conference – a shy little Band 5 nurse with not even 2 years' experience; you can imagine my nerves. However, everyone was so lovely and supportive it gave me the courage to do the things that scare me ever since. I even won a prize for my poster!

How has UKONS influenced your career?

UKONS has influenced my career in so many ways. I am a huge advocate for their role in supporting young or newly qualified nurses, as they helped me. The specific support from the YECCN MIG (Young and Early Career Cancer Nurses) has been so beneficial in building my confidence. Being able to speak to other nurses specific to oncology care creates a wonderful community. I don't believe I could have gone from a terrified Band 5 nurse to a Senior Staff Nurse without the amazing resources UKONS has to offer.

In what ways has UKONS influenced or supported your cancer nursing career?

It has made me fall in love with oncology nursing even more than I expected. I followed in my Mum's footsteps almost every step of my journey so far, and I remember asking

her whether caring for people with cancer ever gets easier. My Mum told me it is the biggest privilege I will experience – and I agree. However, as we all know, it can be tough to get through the hard days. Being able to be part of a community who know exactly what you are going through is what kept me going when things got tough. I love being an oncology nurse, and I love the spaces that UKONS have provided to be supported and further network with like-minded people.